

## SCHEDULE

**THURSDAY, SEPT. 1**  
**Boys Soccer:** Central at Sprague, 4 p.m. Eagle Point at Dallas, 4 p.m.  
**Girls Soccer:** North Salem at Central, 4 p.m. Dallas at Franklin, 7 p.m.  
**Volleyball:** Willamette Valley Christian at Perrydale, 5:30 p.m. Western Oregon vs. Florida Southern at Concordia Labor Day Tournament, noon.  
**Women's Soccer:** George Fox at Western Oregon, 3:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY, SEPT. 2**  
**Football:** Bend at Central, 7 p.m. Parkrose at Dallas, 7 p.m. Falls City at Perrydale, 7 p.m.  
**Volleyball:** Western Oregon vs. Embry-Riddle at Concordia Labor Day Tournament, 2:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 3**  
**Cross-country:** Central, Dallas at Nike Ultimook Race, all day.  
**Football:** Western Oregon at Sacramento State, 6 p.m.  
**Volleyball:** Western Oregon vs. Metro State at Concordia Labor Day Tournament, 5 p.m.

**TUESDAY, SEPT. 6**  
**Boys Soccer:** McNary at Central, 6 p.m. Dallas at St. Helens, 7 p.m.  
**Girls Soccer:** Central at McNary, 7 p.m. St. Helens at Dallas, 4 p.m.  
**Volleyball:** Silverton at Central, 6 p.m. Lebanon at Dallas, 6 p.m. Falls City at C.S. Lewis, 6 p.m. Livingstone Adventist at Perrydale, 7 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 7**  
**Women's Soccer:** Western Oregon at Academy of Art, noon.

## QUICK HITS

### WOU XC picked fourth, sixth

MONMOUTH — Western Oregon's men's and women's cross-country teams were picked fourth and sixth, respectively, in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference Preseason Coaches' poll released on Friday.

Alaska Anchorage was chosen to take the top spot in both polls.

WOU's men's team returns 11 runners from last year, including junior David Ribich, an NCAA national qualifier in 2015.

The women bring back five runners who competed in the GNAC title race last season.

The Wolves' campaign begins Sept. 9, when Western Oregon hosts the Ash Creek Invitational at 5 p.m. at the Ash Creek Preserve.

### Cross Creek men's club results

DALLAS — Cross Creek's men's club results for Aug. 20-21:

Club Championship (36 holes, low gross/low net)  
 Gross: Flight one: Kevin Moen, 154 (club champion); 2, Joe Johnson, 157. Flight two: 1, Darrell Johnson, 168; 2, Brian Halin, 174.  
 Net: Flight one: Bob Bennett, 134; 2, Lee Taylor, 143. Flight two: Larry Hatcher, 133 (net club champion); 2, Greg Fritz, 147.

Aug. 23  
 Modified stableford  
 Gross: 1, Wayne Weathers, 21 points; 2 (tie), Joe Johnson and Jim Schroeder, 18; 4, Rocky Kygar, 17.  
 Net: 1 (tie), Brian Reed and Don Seth, 30; 3 (tie), Eldon Rivers, Larry Hatcher and Rich Dominick, 29; 6, Vern Smith, 26.

**Fall Sports Guide coming Sept. 7**

POLK COUNTY — Look for the 2016 Fall Sports Guide in the Sept. 7 issue of the *Itemizer-Observer*.

Follow the I-O on twitter @PolkIOSports, like us on Facebook and check out www.polkio.com for scores and updates.



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer file

Quarterback Phillip Fenumiai is locked in a battle for the starting job this fall.

## WESTERN OREGON FOOTBALL

# On the hunt

*Wolves open season Saturday at Sacramento State*

By Lukas Eggen

The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — Western Oregon's football team boasts one of the Great Northwest Athletic Conference's most talented — and deepest — rosters. But if WOU wants to claim a conference crown, coach Arne Ferguson and his team must find the answer at a key position.

The Wolves finished second in the GNAC after going 5-1 in league play. The team's lone loss in the conference came against defending champions Humboldt State in WOU's final game of the 2015 season.

The Wolves see a return of a wealth of weapons in skill positions.

Senior tight end Andy Avgi, the 2016 GNAC Men's Basketball Player of the Year, hopes to find success on the gridiron. He returned to football in 2015 for the first time since high school. He had 12 catches for 192 yards and four touchdowns last season.



Avgi

### WOU football

**Head coach:** Arne Ferguson, 12th season.

**2015 record:** 7-4 overall, 5-1 Great Northwest Athletic Conference.

**Key returners:** Paul Revis, jr., receiver, returner; Andy Avgi, sr., tight end; Malik Braxton, soph., running back; Tyler Johnson, jr., linebacker; George Swartzlender, sr., defensive lineman.

**Newcomers to watch:** Nick Duckworth, jr., quarterback; Hudson Kennedy, jr., offensive lineman.

Since then, he's worked on improving every aspect of his game.

"Andy is such a detailed player," Ferguson said. "He's so explosive. Last year, he was still learning the position. It's hard to jump in a sport four years later and be really good at it, but he's picking up pretty fast. He's increased his ability to accelerate, his timing and knowing where the defense is."

At 6-foot-6, 280 pounds, Avgi may be the Wolves' biggest target.

Just as dangerous is the team's smallest receiver, junior Paul Revis. The 2015 first team all-conference se-



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer file

Running back Malik Braxton led the Wolves in rushing yards in 2015.

lection is an all-around threat, recording 710 receiving yards and six touchdowns, and 243 return yards and two touchdowns.

"Both Andy and Paul have amazing ball skills," Ferguson said. "Paul's footwork is extremely good. He's worked harder at his speed. He's a player you get the ball to and you'll see positive outcomes."

See WOLVES, Page 12A



# Glow run comes to Dallas

By Lukas Eggen

The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Dallas' adult recreation program is ready to get in the Halloween spirit with the Glow Run, set for Oct. 15 at 7:15 p.m.

The 5-kilometer run will begin and end in downtown Dallas. All runners will receive a T-shirt, head lamp, glow stick and glow paint (register by Oct. 7 to receive a T-shirt). The cost is \$25 and proceeds will go to Christmas Cheer, a nonprofit that provides holiday meals for families in need in the Dallas area.

"We're excited to do this event," Brautigam said. "We saw that we have people who leave town to do running events all the time. If you look on Facebook you see 25 friends going to Portland or Salem or Corvallis to do this run."

See RUN, Page 12A

### Glow Run

- The Dallas Glow Run will take place Oct. 15 at 7:15 p.m.

- The 5-kilometer race begins and ends in downtown Dallas.

- The cost is \$25 and includes a T-shirt, head lamp, glow stick and glow paint
- Must register by Oct. 7 to receive T-shirt.

- Registration forms are available online at [www.dallasor.gov/adult-sports](http://www.dallasor.gov/adult-sports).

- Proceeds from the run will go to Dallas Christmas Cheer, a nonprofit that provides holiday meals to families in need.

- The city hopes to offer more unique runs in 2017, including a mud run and warrior dashes.

## CENTRAL HIGH ATHLETICS

# Panther Club hopes for a comeback

*Athletics department ready to recruit new volunteers for fundraising group*

By Lukas Eggen

The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — The Panther Club has long played an integral role behind the scenes for Central athletics.

But the club disappeared during the 2015-16 school year — something that Central's athletic department knows can't continue.

The Panther Club's primary role is to raise money for the high school's athletics program for athletic improvements or equipment when needed.

Athletics Director Shane Hedrick said in recent years the school has been in a good budget position — lessening the need for outside fundraising.

That may change over the next few years thanks to things like PERS requirements, Hedrick said.

This school year, the athletics department wants to build up the club to be ready to put on the Panther Club auction in 2017.

"What will happen, just like when it first started, is it will be driven by the coaches," Hedrick said. "Newer volunteers, they're pretty raw and we need to let them know what the Panther Club does."

The Panther Club relies on parent volunteers to put on fundraising events — including the Panther Auc-



PETE STRONG/Itemizer-Observer file

The Panther Club raises money to help Central High School's athletic programs.

tion — and to distribute funds for various athletic needs.

As seniors graduate, parents who are involved move on, Hedrick said and more emphasis needs to be on bringing in new volunteers to the organization. In previous years, membership has ranged from eight to 50 couples, Hedrick said.

See CLUB, Page 12A

### Panther Club

- The Panther Club raises money for Central High School's athletic programs for athletic improvements or equipment when needed.
- The Panther Club did not operate during the 2015-16 school year.
- Athletics director Shane Hedrick said he and other coaches will get the word out to parents to recruit new volunteers to join the Panther Club.
- The school hopes to see the Panther Club Auction, the group's largest fundraiser, return in 2017.